

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2007. By the present amendment, the original claims 1-30 have been replaced with new claims 31-48 which have been drafted to clarify the invention, as will be discussed below.

Reconsideration and allowance of the newly submitted claims 31-48 over the cited prior art to Machida (USP 4,848,536), Motoaki (JP 62-211363) and Hiramatsu (USPub. 2003/0044653), whether considered alone or in combination with one another, is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, each of the independent claims has been drafted to include the feature of an electrostatic chuck or a rectangular substrate stage for electrostatically attracting a rectangular substrate, comprising:

"a plurality of rod-like electrodes disposed along an edge portion of a rectangular substrate to be treated so that a shorter side of each of said rod-like electrodes for electrostatically attracting the rectangular substrate runs in parallel to a longer side of said rectangular substrate."

As such, an arrangement such as shown, for example, in Figs. 4 and 5 is provided in which a plurality of rod-like electrodes (e.g., 40) are disposed along the edge portion of the substrate (G) so that the shorter side of each of the rod-like electrodes (40) runs in parallel to a long side of the rectangular substrate (G). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of the independent claims 31-37, and 42-48 defines a structural arrangement neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

In addition, various ones of the independent claims 32-37 and 44-48 define additional features of the invention, such as the feature that the wiring to the

electrodes can be changed over to mono-pole or bi-pole, the feature that the rod-like electrodes are comprised of rod-like materials and thermally sprayed films of high-purity ceramics, and specific features concerning the cross-sectional shapes of the rod-like materials, for example, in stepped shapes, shapes including a curved convex portion and a curved concave portion, etc. Claims such as claims 34, 35 etc. also define the provision of a predetermined gap between adjacent ones of the rod-like electrodes (e.g., such as the gap "g" shown in Figs. 4 and 5), combined with other features regarding the cross-sectional shapes.

With regard to the cited prior art, it is noted that Figs. 15(a) – 15(e) of the primary reference to Machida shows a top view of the electrode, rather than a cross-sectional view. As such, it cannot be determined what the actual cross-sectional structure of the electrodes is. In addition, rather than defining the claimed feature of mono-pole and bi-pole, as defined in claims such as claim 32, etc., Machida teaches a positive-negative change over at the power source being performed for driving the wafer. As such, the primary reference to Machida fails to teach or suggest these above noted additional features found in the independent claims 32-37 and 43-48 as well as the dependent claims 38-41. In addition, nothing in the cited secondary references makes up for these shortcomings in the primary reference to Machida. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the newly submitted claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 1113.45730X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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